

tain that a tremendous battle is in progress within the area stretching from Diest and Tirlemont as far as Givet, and after some marching and countermarching the Germans retired.

Paris, Aug. 19.—Careful study of the situation on the northern frontier by French military observers demonstrates that the events transpiring in Belgium to-day are the beginning of operations on an immense scale.

Germany, it is declared, is making a fresh and mightier effort to break into France through the comparatively open Belgian country.

The French government, however, is confident that the allies will be able to meet this shock successfully and reply to it crushingly.

An official announcement this morning says the retirement of Belgian troops toward Antwerp is rumored, but not confirmed.

It is officially explained that even if this were true it would be neither a grave nor an unexpected symptom. The defensive organization of Belgium, as conceived by General Brialmont and presented in technical works, considers Antwerp as a last defence. It has been fortified with care and is to-day a vast intrenched camp on the flank of the enemy.

An official communication made public to-day declares the transfer of the seat of the Belgian government from Brussels to Antwerp was not an immediate necessity, but that it was made so that the change might be effected in a normal manner, without risk of interruption to governmental business.

While Belgian officials have gone to Antwerp, their families remain in Brussels. The Queen and the princes are at the Antwerp palace, while the King is with the army.

A dispatch to "Le Midi," of Paris, from Brussels, dated to-day, says cannonading was distinctly heard in Brussels at 6 o'clock this morning.

Details of the fighting at Dinant between the French and German troops show that the carnage was terrible. The First French company, although decimated, held a position until another company came up with artillery, which destroyed a bridge. The French cavalry then advanced and pushed the German attackers back into the Meuse.

The Brussels correspondent of the Havas Agency telegraphs as follows:

"A committee to inquire into alleged breaches of the laws of war by the Germans has drawn up its statement of facts. Major Van Damme, who was wounded at Haelen on August 12, was dispatched, it is claimed, by a revolver shot from the Germans. It is set forth that Major Knapen was killed under similar circumstances at Orsmaal on August 9.

"Emile Vandervelde, the Socialist leader in the Belgian Chamber of Deputies, who recently became Minister of State, has returned from a visit to Paris, where he conferred with the prominent men of all parties. He says that his visit gave him absolute certainty of final victory for the allies."

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Brussels, Aug. 19 (via London).—One of the last correspondents to return from the field following the request that all be recalled was the representative of "La Dernière Heure," from whose account of yesterday's operations the following is taken:

"At this moment the new advance of the Germans toward the interior of Belgium is preparing. Before an overwhelming weight of numbers, the Belgian cavalry withdrew in good order. Our advanced troops were commissioned to hold the enemy as long as possible before falling back. Our second line is in an intrenched position, made as strong as it possibly can be, to meet the German attack. A complete line exists, covering the approaches to Louvain, Brussels and Antwerp.

"Yesterday's fighting started at 3:30 a. m. At dawn a German aeroplane flew low over our front. First one volley was fired at it, then a second. The machine fell in the German lines. After several feints, the attack developed. About 6 o'clock strong forces of cavalry and infantry, supported by artillery and machine guns, poured down on the village.

"It was no mere skirmishing this time. A furious battle was soon raging along a seven-mile front. The enemy tried to push through, but they met with a determined resistance. The cavalry dismounted and occupied the trenches and bravely withstood a hail of fire for two hours. While the Belgian cavalry was acting as infantry behind the earthworks a party of German cavalry got in behind them and shot their horses. Inch by inch the ground was fought. Large numbers of Germans were killed in their relentless move forward, and the Belgian defenders suffered further serious loss in their stubborn defence.

"At Berdingen the resistance was equally praiseworthy. In a trench where seven cavalrymen were making a great fight, Lieutenant Count Woltgan Dursel was struck in the head by a bullet and fell. His companions pressed around him. 'I have got my account,' he said. 'Leave me and do your duty.' He breathed his last a little later.

"When the retreat was ordered each Belgian cavalryman did his best to help his comrades whose horses perished in the raid. At this point two Belgian squadrons, totalling about 240 men and showing magnificent bravery, were holding 2,000 Germans. In spite of their superior numbers, the enemy could claim no distinct advantage, but after two hours' resistance the Belgian retreat was sounded.

"When our cavalry retired the Germans advanced in great numbers and occupied Diest. They wrecked the railway station and bombarded the town. The terrified inhabitants fled and soon a straggling mass was rushing across the open country in search of a place of safety. The inhabitants of Tirlemont fared better. Seeing the inevitable approaching, three trainloads of refugees were hurriedly sent away. As the last train left German shells were flying over the town and several houses were in flames."

Following the announcement that the seat of government and the royal family had been removed to Antwerp there was a large exodus of people from Brussels yesterday, particularly for the coast.

## GERMAN PAPERS TEEM WITH CRUELTY TALES

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Aug. 19.—English, French and Belgian papers contain several reports of alleged barbarities. Copies of the "Hamburger Fremdenblatt" received in London show that German papers, according to "The Chronicle," are giving a loose rein to the imagination of writers, who know no bounds in their scandalous vilifications of the enemy. Paris barbarities, Antwerp barbarities and barbarities in French cities are poured forth with horrible iteration.

The "Hamburger Fremdenblatt" says that in Antwerp German women were subjected to the grossest cruelty. It asserts that two German women, absolutely naked, were dragged by their hair through the streets and that Belgian police and soldiers saw this horrible sight with indifference.

In another town German women, according to the "Fremdenblatt," were injured and German children were thrown out of windows by the infuriated populace. Women were seen carrying their dead children, whose arms and legs had been broken.

In all these harrowing tales the utmost care is taken to be as vague as possible as to date and locality, giving as authorities "a man," "a ship captain," etc.

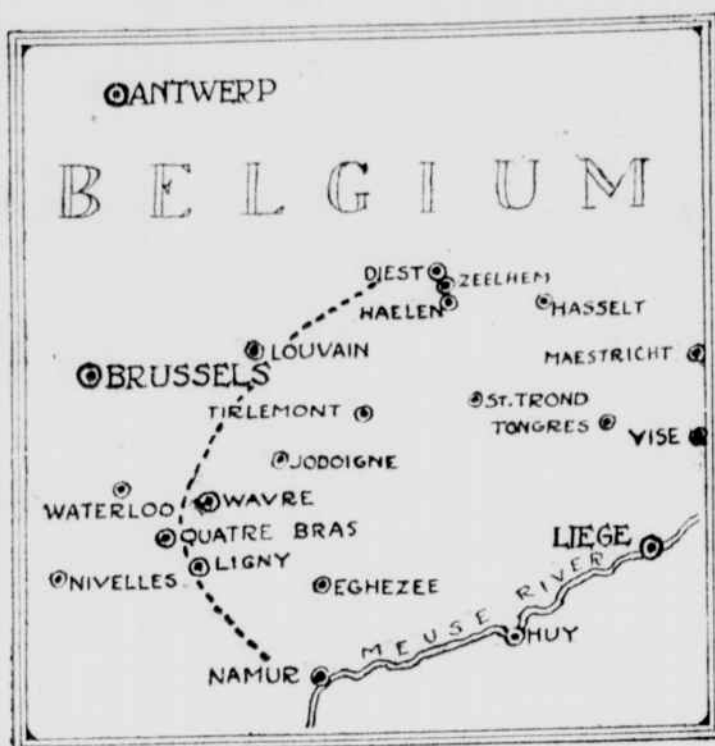
## German Troops Shoot Down Belgian Burgomaster's Wife

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Rotterdam, Aug. 18.—Tragic conflicts between the invading troops and the civil population of Northeastern Belgium continue to be almost a daily occurrence.

Some German soldiers, passing through the Dutch-Belgian frontier

## THE GREAT BELGIAN BATTLEFIELD.



village of Canne last night, demanded food. The villagers responded half-heartedly and a scuffle ensued, in which the burgomaster's wife and a lawyer who was visiting the place were shot dead.

Refugees are coming in large numbers over the frontier from Canne and Tongres.

## Loss of Brussels No Setback, Says Expert

London, Aug. 19.—An American military expert who left Brussels to-day, reviewing the situation in Belgium, said to-night:

"Any battle for the actual possession of Brussels will be fought outside, in the direction of Wavre and Louvain. If the Germans take Brussels, it does not mean in any sense a military setback for the allies beyond its sentimental effect, and the opinion in Brussels was that, owing to French success in Alsace and the check the Germans' right wing has suffered in Belgium, something must be done which would have at least the form of success.

"Brussels apparently is not unduly scared. The shops are open, the streetcars and taxicabs are running and the newspapers are appearing regularly. There is no sign of alarm, and the staff states that the situation is excellent. As a matter of fact, the general public had not yet heard the news of the Germans' approach, which was rapidly spread early this morning in official quarters.

"The people will submit to the Germans without any demonstration, because of the practical good sense of the Belgians, which teaches them that resistance after their army is driven back is fruitless and because of their supreme confidence that the British and French will eventually drive the Germans out of Belgium.

"The Belgian officials are warning the people not to attempt reprisals, because that would bring reprisals on them. You can hear any kind of rumor in Brussels, and, if the Germans are determined to attack in force, Brussels will be taken, unless the allies decide to resist for the sake of the possession of the town.

## French Army Aviators Fly Daily Over German Border

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Aug. 20.—"The Morning Post's" correspondent in Paris tells of meeting last evening one of the twelve French army aviators, who recently flew from St. Cyr to Brussels, where they are stationed to assist the Belgian army.

The aviator, who is back in Paris on army business, gave a thrilling account of his flight. His average height was between 3,000 and 4,000 feet, for there was a constant risk of being fired at in mistake for a German aeroplane.

All twelve aviators reached Brussels without a mishap, and since have been making daily excursions over the frontier into Germany. The flier admitted that twice he had been as far as Cologne and Coblenz without a mishap, though he had been often fired at. He has seen masses of the huge German army concentrated in that region.

## Germans Take 1,000 Russians Prisoners in East Prussia

London, Aug. 19.—A dispatch received to-day by the Marconi Wireless Press Bureau from Berlin says that in an encounter near Stallupohnen, East Prussia, August 17, a division of the German First Army Corps defeated a Russian force, capturing 1,000 prisoners and six machine guns. Many Russian guns which could not be taken by the Germans were destroyed.

Berlin (via Amsterdam and London), Aug. 19.—German troops to-day occupied the town of Mlawka, in Russian Poland, close to the German frontier on the Warsaw Railroad.

## French Aeroplanes Carry Cheer to People of Liege

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Rotterdam, Aug. 19.—French aeroplanes passed over Liege on Sunday and dropped a large number of broad sheets reading: "Keep your courage, people of Liege! We are getting the best of it."

The "Kölnische Zeitung" asserts that the advance of the German troops, while slow, has not been seriously checked anywhere.

Large contingents of Austrian troops, including mountain artillery, of which the German army does not possess any, have passed points along the Rhine on their way to the front.

## Paris Herds Cattle on Longchamps Race Course

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Paris, Aug. 19.—The city continues to make preparations for all eventualities. It is the base for the third line of defence, and the third army of reservists is being mobilized around the city. Great supplies of provisions and materials are being centralized in Paris.

The race courses at Longchamps and Auteuil provide accommodations for thousands of cattle. Parts of the Bois de Boulogne and a part of Saint Cloud were yesterday inclosed for this purpose, the latter space containing 27,000 oxen.

Preparations are being made to convert the pretty parks of Monceau and Buttes Chaumont for the same purpose, and in a few days they will be sheep pens, the former housing some 20,000 head.

## Italians from America Would Fight for France

London, Aug. 20.—"The Exchange Telegraph's" Paris correspondent says:

"Captain Ricciotti Garibaldi arrived in Paris to-day (Wednesday), and his brother, General Giuseppe Garibaldi, is expected to-morrow. They are in command of 1,000 Italian volunteers, fully armed, from America. If the French government does not accept their services, they will try to join the English or the Belgian forces."

## CHANGE TO ANTWERP NO SURPRISE TO PARIS

Moving of Belgian Capital Held To Be Unimportant from Military Point of View—Germans' Twelve Days of Raids and Fighting Reviewed.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Paris, Aug. 18.—It is fully recognized here that the removal of the Belgian court and government from the open city of Brussels to the strongly fortified port of Antwerp is dictated by the evident consideration of convenience and is insignificant from a military point of view.

For some days past it has been known that Brussels was threatened by raiding bands of German cavalry and that trenches were being cut in the main roads approaching the capital to give it some measure of defence. Doubtless the Kaiser's hands might by a heroic effort enter the city, but such an act would be worthy of the general futility of the German plan of campaign. It would postpone to the Greek Kalends any hope of reaching the French frontier in force. In fact, it could have only one purpose—to cover with apparent triumph the mass of false news which has been circulating in Germany, but is now beginning to be estimated at its true value.

Nothing at this moment can be more important for the Emperor than to placate German public opinion, but would it not be understood in the Fatherland that the army of blood and iron was kicking its heels in Brussels because there was no longer the faintest hope of reaching Paris? All indications suggest that the little town of Liege and its ring of forts finally destroyed the German plan of campaign such as it was.

Half of Belgium has been overrun by small bodies of horse in the hope of finding some open way and probably also to draw off the Belgian army from its main line of defence. And what is the result after twelve days of raids and fighting?

The advance along the northern frontier from Maestricht by Hasselt and Diest seems to be abandoned. It can hardly have been intended seriously in the middle of the country about Louvain, Jodoigne and Gembloux. Nothing much seems now gathering on the right wing of the Belgians. In the Meuse Valley Liege holds out, and Namur has not yet been seriously attacked. It is probable that a decisive shock may yet take place here. The battle of Dinant appears to have broken the attempt to get through to the upper Meuse and French frontier at Givet by way of the Ourthe Valley, Rochefort and Cirey. A railway line runs round from Rochefort to Dinant, but the only approach from Cirey is by Courards.

The whole district consists of steep hills thickly wooded and most difficult for military operations, and those who remember Dinant will wonder how 30,000 men could be brought into conflict within so confined a space.

Whether the German attack was meant to prepare a way for the advance en masse by the way indicated above, or was intended to support such an advance up the Meuse Valley from Liege, by way of Namur, it is impossible to say, nor is it known whether the objective was a direct advance by Givet into France, supported, perhaps, by a parallel march from Luxembourg by Sedan or Metz, or was only a flank movement to cut off the allies in the region of Charleroi.

On no hypothesis, however, can the German outlook be considered promising, but when General Bonnal foretells the final conflict before the fortresses of the Middle Rhine before the end of October 1 I confess he seems to be remarkably optimistic.

## French Pick Battle Ground to Decide Fate of Brussels

Said to Have Germans in Such Position That Two-thirds of Their Northern Force Must Be Engaged.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Brussels, Aug. 19.—Brussels was very nervous this evening and there seems to be a reason. All official statements as to its position are reassuring, but so they have been every day. Brussels' nerves are taut. Notices posted in the streets to-night saying that any one with arms in his possession should deposit them with the police, as otherwise, he will be liable to be shot by any invaders, attracted crowds all evening. Their distribution seemed significant, as did the departure yesterday of the royal family and the Ministers of State to Antwerp. Significant, too, are the barricades and intrenchments now put all around the city, especially to the south and east.

The Brusselsers are sadly reconciled if their beautiful city must be sacrificed in the great game the powers are playing. It is only on a level with the usual role of Belgium, where Fontenoy, Jemmapes, Fleurbaes, Ligny, Neerwinden, Waterloo and a score of other great battles have been fought.

Against this pessimistic outlook, however, news comes by eye witnesses from the front, Jenappe, Wavre and Gembloux, which, for the present, is forbidden ground to journalists, that the French are assuming the aggressive, and are hunting Uhlans out of the woods and back across the road between Namur and Brussels.

Further, from a good source I have news that the French generals have chosen their battle grounds and have the Germans now in such a position that they cannot avoid fighting a battle in which two-thirds of their northern force must be engaged, if it is, in fact, the body of the French force which has been rolled up into Belgium.

This battle will decide the fate of Brussels, if that has not already been decided by giving it as bait to Germany. It also in large measure will decide the fate of the war on this northern side, perhaps of the whole war. The temptation to say more is considerable, but what I have said is permissible, for the French already have shown their hand.

It is being made very difficult for us now to get even stale news, but I managed a hurried run late this afternoon toward the eastern line to reassure myself that things were as quiet as had been expected. It is a curiously subtle thing, this question of attack and defence. I could feel the difference in the atmosphere at different points. There is not the slightest doubt, from what I saw, that pressure is slowly turning against the invaders. There is real ground to hope that in a week or so they will be on the defensive, fighting for their lives.

The carnage will be awful. The German officers—such is the statement made in Belgian papers—have sworn not to return unless victorious. To any one who knows the unbending stuff—heroic or brutal, just as you view it—of the Prussian officers, it is quite certain that they will keep their oath.

Down at Dinant and Namur the battle is likely to be worse. It will be a rushing lance to lance and bayonet to bayonet affair up and down the steep hills by the Meuse, but at the battlefield the French have chosen their artillery well for full play.

Unless the Germans abandon their usual massed formations, the slaughter will be terrible. Wherever the English are there will be a lot of cut and thrust work, as well as good marksmanship.

## WAR MERGES ALL RUSSIAN FACTIONS

London, Aug. 19.—"It is impossible to relate a tithe of the amazing things that have happened in Russia during the last ten days," says a letter to "The Daily Chronicle," written in St. Petersburg on August 12. It continues:

"Russia is not recognizable, or, rather, that haunting beauty of Russia which these of us who live here so dearly love, feel and love, has suddenly gone forth radiantly from out of the heavy clouds of failure and defeat that have hidden it for so many years."

"Russia is full of moral energy. She has never displayed it with the same vigor as now at any other period of her history. Russia feels herself for once to be morally in the right."

"Russia's internal condition was deplorable. The Poles, Finns and Jews were embittered by the government's policy of oppression. The Douma was divided and helpless. Strikes were spreading. There were serious riots in St. Petersburg."

# CLYSMIC

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## DAVIS SURE GERMANS WERE WITHDRAWING

New York Tribune's Special Correspondent, at the Front in Belgium, Watched Operations of Large Body of French Troops Near Tirlemont.

By RICHARD HARDING DAVIS  
(Special Correspondent New York Tribune.)

Brussels, Aug. 18, noon (Delayed).—The censor allows the newspaper "Le Derniere Heure" this morning to state that shells are falling in Tirlemont and that a dozen houses are on fire.

Last night refugees from Tirlemont arrived here on the last train from that city. This morning they are coming in by motor cars. They left so suddenly that they have not even hand baggage. Their cars are repeatedly stopped and news of attack near Tirlemont is demanded, but their news is as scanty as their luggage and, like the stories of all who run away, exaggerated.

Yesterday I was close to Tirlemont with a column of French dragoons and artillery that was the rear guard of a large body of French forces. While not permitted to state what I saw, it was of a nature to thoroughly convince one that the Germans are withdrawing.

## ITALIAN WORKINGMEN FAVORING NEUTRALITY

Commercial Classes Follow Lead of King and Cabinet—Austria Offers Strong Temptation, but British Friendship Desired.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Rome, Aug. 19.—A vast mass of people of the manufacturing and commercial classes, especially of Lombardy and Venetia, which have known the Austrian yoke, desire neutrality. Most of the Italians rejoice more or less openly at the possible defeat of their dear allies. The King, the Premier, Signor Salandra, and the Colonial Minister, Signor Ferdinando Martini, their colleagues following them, are understood to favor neutrality, on which the Premier is said to have insisted.

It may, perhaps, be assumed that the Marquis of San Giuliano, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whose pronouncedly Austrian antecedents may lead Austrian and German statesmen to believe that Italy's intervention is in their behalf, has the same views as his chief.

But a party in the army, especially the General Staff, whose new chief is General Cadorna, is believed to be convinced that the Triple Alliance is working for intervention in behalf of Austria and Germany. At the Foreign Office some four or five influential officers are said to take the same line, and the Duke of Dalmara, Italian Ambassador at Vienna since 1904, is probably friendly to Austria. But should that party, which is improbable, gain the upper hand, Signor Salandra would resign. Some believe there then would be such a demonstration of public indignation, especially in the north, that the most serious effects might ensue.

No Italian wants war with Great Britain, Italy's best friend. Few Italians would wish to run the risk of seeing Libya and 55,000 soldiers therein cut off, as they would be, from communication with supplies from Italy. A nation which has a North African colony can scarcely be on hostile terms with Great Britain and France.

Italy has in the last few days had her temptations. I am told that Austria generously offered her other people's territory in Tunisia and Valona in return for her aid, as well as Trentino, which is an Austrian territory, but Italian by speech and race.

But, besides the alternative of neutrality or intervention in favor of Austria, there is also the possibility of intervention against Austria, and that is not improbable should Austria occupy the Montenegrin strategic position of Mount Lovtchen, which dominates Bocche di Cattaro and in Austrian hands would be a menace to Adriatic equilibrium.

## Prince Arthur of Connaught Anxious to Go to the Front

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Aug. 19.—Prince Arthur of Connaught is anxious to be actively serving his country, and it is understood, although it has not yet been officially announced, that he will be given military appointment.

It has been reported that one of the consequences of the war would be to boycott all German music in London. The directors of the Queen's Hall orchestra deny this report. As far as they are concerned, Wagner, Schubert, Brahms and Schumann will continue to figure in their programmes during the present season.

## Bill to Prohibit Loans. NO TO BE SAID TO JAPAN

Washington, Aug. 19.—To relieve the President from the responsibility of deciding whether loans to foreign powers at war shall be permitted Senator Hitchcock introduced a bill to-day making such loans illegal and a violation of the neutrality laws.

Rejection for Ultimatum Admitted in Berlin.

London, Aug. 20.—The Rotterdam correspondent of "The Times" says he has learned from official sources in Berlin that Germany will reject the Japanese ultimatum.

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